

COUNTRY

TOPIC

EVALUATION

25X1X

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT

25X1A

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 13 January 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. The entire Polish coastal area was divided into several zones. Most closely guarded was the beach zone. All persons staying in this area, including the sea-side visitors, had to have special permits which were continuously checked by a large number of sentries and patrols. Railroad passengers in the coastal area were also checked for this special permit. A woman in Thorn who wished to see her husband on a fishing smack had to obtain this special permit at the local administrative office.
2. The beach area on the Peninsula of Hel and around the Bay of Danzig was harrowed to show traces of illegal border crossers. The beach was off-limits after dusk. Persons apprehended there after dark were arrested. Patrol sentries were posted every 200 to 500 meters on the beach; they were armed with rifles, submachine guns and some even had hand grenades. The controls were rather strict; for example, a Pole in Heistarnest who, at night, wanted to go to a latrine only a few meters from his house near the beach was arrested and detained for 24 hours although he wore pajamas.
3. The area east of Stettin was called "The Wild West" by the Poles as armed gangs made the region unsafe, and robberies and shootings were frequent occurrences. No taxi would leave the central town sections at night, and the militia even avoided patrolling the outer districts at night.

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Comment. The stringent border control in Poland is known from previous information. It was tightened when observation towers were erected along the coast. It is doubted, however, that this control is as complete as indicated in the present report. It is believed that the personnel strength of the WOP units in the coastal area is not strong enough to make possible continuous control of the entire coast.

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CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~